

1978-713

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

MRS. ADA HOLDING MILLER, PRESIDENT • PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



Office of the President
MRS. ADA HOLDING MILLER
28 Everett Avenue
Providence 6, R. I.

March 10, 1954

President of San Jose State University
San Jose, California:

Dear Mr. President:

I am sorry that I do not know your name so that I might address you properly. I am writing this at the request of my husband, Dr. Albert H. Miller. His father, Charles Hiram Miller, and his aunt, Mrs. Emma Houghton, and her husband, Mr. George Houghton, taught at what was then San Jose Institute, as the enclosed circular will prove. This was in the year 1869. Charles Miller eventually returned to Maine, his native state, with the intention of returning to California, but married Emma Bailey Day of Lewiston, Maine, and took over the business of the firm of Nealley and Miller, Wholesale and Retail Grocers.

In 1884, Charles Miller and his wife went to California. We have a hand written account of their interesting trip. Charles Miller wrote some of his adventures of 1869 in a copybook. He wrote -- " went to California in the year of 1869. Had home at San Jose Institute, fifty miles from San Francisco. The southern part at that time was of no importance. No railroad conveniences."

We also have four small photographs which he brought back with him. These were taken by a man named Heeling, First Street. One is of the town of San Jose, one of the Institute itself, one of the Court House and one of the Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in the photographs, we will be glad to send them to you. Charles Miller died in 1912, in Maine. His wife also passed on and of the four children, my husband is the only survivor.

We feel that we own a part of California, being the proud grandparents of a boy born in Orange, near Santa Ana, during the war. Dr. Miller also wishes me to request that you send him any history of the Institute which you may have available, and one of your new catalogues.

Doctor Miller had to have his right eye removed last summer and his sight in general is very bad, hence this letter from me.

Cordially yours,

Ada Holding Miller

AHM:dp

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March 24, 1954

Office of the President
MRS. ADA HOLDING MILLER
28 Everett Avenue
Providence 6, R. I.

Mr. Lowell C. Pratt
San Jose State College
San Jose, California.

Dear Mr. Pratt:

Today I am mailing to you the interesting data which I promised. There are letters from Charles Hiram Miller to Emma Bailey Day, written from California several from George Houghton to Charles, also written from California and which you will find interesting and informative. Also, the photographs and a copy of data found in an old copybook, written by Charles Miller.

The Houghtons had children, William and Chase I believe and then somehow or other Roscoe Houghton who may have been the brother of George, a man of considerable wealth who lived either in Bakersfield or Merced. At any rate, as soon as people read the article, you will surely begin to get letters on the subject. I do not know whether or not there are now any Houghtons living in California, but I believe there must be.

You will be amused at the stilted letters of courtship, characteristic of the times. Charles taught at the Institute two years or more. The Houghtons lived there in California for 20 years. Mrs. Houghton (Emma Miller) left after her husband George passed on and returned to Lewiston, Maine where she lived with my husband's family at 6 Frye St, until she died.

We hope that this material will prove to be of value to you historically and it is of course, authentic. Dr. Albert Miller is one of the world's finest and if I may say so truthfully, most famous Anaesthetists, a real pioneer in this field of medicine and you will find his name in any good medical book. His father was a sweet and upstanding man who entered the grocery business wholesale and retail which was given to him by his wife's father, Heiryv Day on condition that he live in Maine and leave California. He would not listen to his daughter's going to far off California, so this is how we come into the picture.

Cordially Yours,
Ada Holding Miller
Ada Holding Miller

Copy of data written in old copybook, by Charles Hiram Miller.

"Went to California in the year 1869. Had home in San Jose Institute fifty miles from San Francisco, the southern part at that time was of no importance. No railroad conveniences."

" My friend Chase Houghton and myself thought ^{we} ~~we~~ would like a trial at mining, so we got a horse and packed our camping equipment and one walked a while. We reached a mining gulch in the coast range mountains where, being so far down, the sun could not be seen until ten in the morning. We found a man from North Carolina who let us stay with him. We camped in the open air no tent being necessary. Most of the miners were Mexicans and Greasers which means Indians and Mexicans. We got quite an experience in placer mining. We would dig down to the bed rock, then shovel in pans, then wash it out. We got some gold but the scarcity of water could not do much, but we had a good time and experience. When leaving the mining gulch we packed and I putting my extra clothing with the luggage was left looking like a miner as I had a large disk knife and a revolver stuck in my belt and being without my coat. We decided to have Chase ride first and I walk, and I took a shorter cut instead of going around the mountain and somehow, I did not come out as we had planned. I knew my friend would stop at a certain place and leave the horse so I walked along and after getting a good supper I then went in the second class cars which were mostly filled with Chinamen. My friend was very much worried and very glad to see me."

McMurry-P. 109